Government of
Saskatchewan

# Annual Report
# for the Year
# Ending March 31, 1989

# Saskatchewan
# Health

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Government of Saskatchewan

# Annual Report for the Year Ending March 31, 1989

## Saskatchewan Health

3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6

90-03495/

# Letters of Transmittal

Hon. George McLeod

Hon. Jack Wolfe

To the Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk
Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

We are pleased to submit this report on the activities of Saskatchewan Health for 1988-89.

We believe in good health, and we know that preventing illnesses and accidents is the key to continued health for Saskatchewan residents. Consequently, we launched the EVERYONE WINS program to provide people with the help they need to live healthy lives. Started in co-operation with community groups, employers and several associations representing health providers, the program emphasizes that good health is a shared responsibility.

While we want to emphasize healthy living, we recognize that we must protect our health care system so that it will be there when we need it. To accomplish this goal, we continued an ambitious program to renew and expand our health care facilities — hospitals, special-care homes, integrated facilities, and the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre in Regina.

As part of our commitment to providing innovative and efficient services, we introduced the computerized health services card — the first of its kind in Canada and a model for the world. The new card eliminates the need to save receipts and apply for rebates under the Prescription Drug Plan, and it paves the way for other health care applications in the future.

Not as visible, but just as noteworthy, is the provincial laboratory's identification of three babies with phenylketonuria (PKU) and four babies with hypothyroidism. This early diagnosis enables treatment and prevents retardation, and it is a fine example of the work our department does on behalf of families in Saskatchewan.

By working closely with the public, health care agencies and health care providers, we continued to provide excellent health care and prevention services to the residents of Saskatchewan in 1988-89.

Honourable George McLeod
Minister of Health

Honourable Jack Wolfe
Associate Minister of Health

Dr. Bill MacDonald

To the Honourable George McLeod
Minister of Health
and the Honourable Jack Wolfe
Associate Minister of Health

Sirs:

On behalf of the staff of the department, I am pleased to present the annual report of Saskatchewan Health for your consideration. In accordance with the Department of Health Act, The Prescription Drugs Act, The Medical Care Insurance Act, and The Vital Statistics Act, this report covers the activities of the department for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1989.

I want to thank all staff for their dedicated work and multi-talented contributions. I especially think of the concerted team effort in developing the computerized health services card. As a group, our people finished the work in an impressively short period.

This year we renewed our commitment to caring and effective service. With this in mind, all employees attended "Serving People First" seminars to look for innovative ways individuals, work units, and the department can best meet the needs of the people we serve.

It's been an exciting year; one in which we have faced challenges and accomplished much by working together for the health and well-being of Saskatchewan people. Again, I thank all employees for their dedication and hard work.

Respectfully submitted,

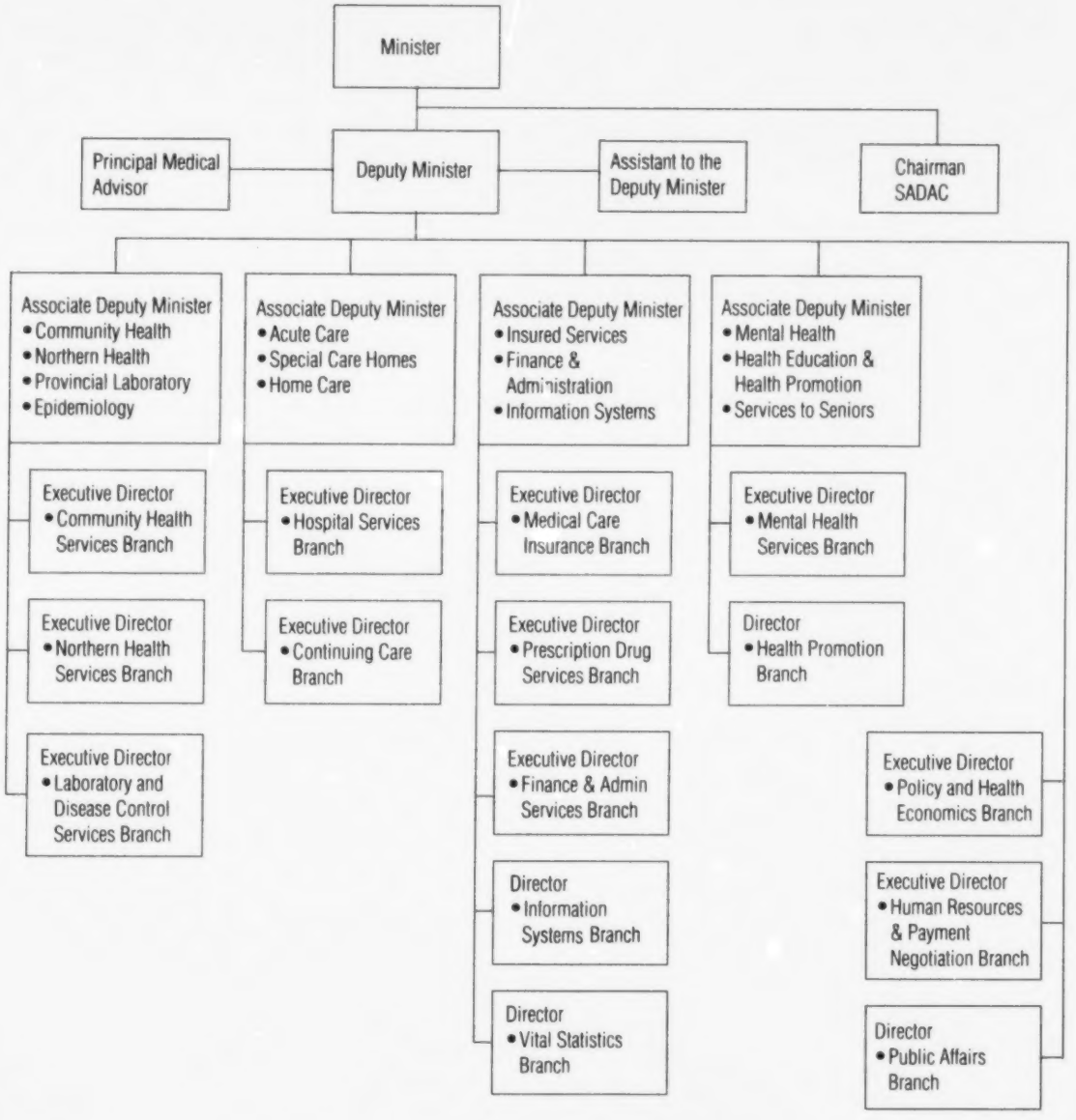
W. MacDonald.

Dr. Bill MacDonald
Deputy Minister

## Figure 1

### Saskatchewan Health Organization Structure

1988 - 1989



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# Saskatchewan Health's Mission and Goals

## Our Mission

- Working together for health and well-being.

## Our Goals

- Provide leadership in delivery of quality service that respects the dignity and rights of people.
- Promote healthy living and encourage responsible, informed personal health care.
- Ensure access to quality preventive, diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitative and support services.
- Encourage prudent and effective use of services by individuals and health care providers.
- Facilitate and strengthen community-based services.
- Strengthen consultation, coordination and management of health services at provincial, regional and local levels.
- Manage resources effectively and efficiently.

# Saskatchewan's Health System, 1988-89*

### Covered Population (at June 30, 1988)
- 1,044,151 residents

### Department Expenditure
- Spending totalled more than $1.2 billion

### Hospitals
- 134 hospitals
- 6,652 acute care bed capacity
- 1,710,207 patient days of care provided to Saskatchewan residents
- 1 psychiatric hospital with 188 long-term care beds and 9 hospitals with psychiatric wards

### Special-care Homes
- 161 special-care homes
- More than 10,000 long-term care beds in special-care homes, integrated facilities and hospitals

### Integrated Facilities
- 13 integrated facilities (combined acute care and long-term care facilities)

### Medical Insurance
- More than 9.5 million claims totalling $227 million

### Prescription Drug Services
- 4.7 million claims totalling $59.7 million
- 1,874 drugs covered by the Saskatchewan Formulary

### Ambulance Services
- 108 ambulance boards
- 66,000 road ambulance trips
- 571 air ambulance trips

### Provincial Laboratory Services
- 831,200 tests performed

### Home Care
- 18,842 clients served
- $23.4 million in government funding to 45 home care districts

### Mental Health Services
- 61 communities with regular mental health services
- 200 approved homes, 12 group homes and 85 supervised apartment spaces

### Community Health Services
- 10 regional offices and 46 district offices

### Assistive Devices
- 30,441 wheelchairs, mobility aids and other special equipment lent through the Saskatchewan Abilities Council's Special Needs Equipment Program. This program is funded through Saskatchewan Health.

* at March 31, 1989

## Department Highlights

- Introduced the EVERYONE WINS health promotion program which focuses on seven key health areas: nutrition, physical fitness, stress, accident prevention, alcohol and drug abuse, smoking and communicable diseases.
- Introduced the computerized health services card — the first of its kind in Canada. The card eliminates consumers' need to save receipts and apply for rebates under the Prescription Drug Plan. Once consumers exceed their deductible level, the Plan pays 80 per cent of all eligible prescription drug costs.
- A new rehabilitation wing opened at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre in Regina and Phase II construction began. Phase II will provide a new long-term care wing with 54 Veterans' Affairs Canada beds and 170 long-term care beds.
- Established a pharmacoepidemiology unit in the Laboratory and Disease Control Services Branch to conduct studies of unexpected prescription drug effects on the population.
- Waiting lists for elective surgery at the three Saskatoon hospitals declined for the second straight year.
- Provided $300,000 to help Regina hospitals recruit specialists. A shortage of ophthalmologists in the city ended with the recruitment of five additional specialists.
- Three new integrated facilities opened at Theodore, Kyle and Leoville, and planning continued for eight more.
- Opened 121 special-care homes beds: 108 new and 13 replacement.
- Provided regular mental health services in 61 communities, giving Saskatchewan one of the most extensive and comprehensive community-based mental health services in Canada.

# Community Health Services

## Objectives

The Community Health Services Branch aims to protect, maintain and improve people's health by providing a variety of services. These include public health nursing, public health inspection, nutrition counselling, early childhood psychology, speech and language therapy, chiropody, community therapy, dental health education, hearing testing and related services, and special equipment for people with handicaps.

## Highlights

- Extended the Dental Health Education program to include children in grade six.
- Increased per capita grants to the City Health Departments in Regina and Saskatoon.
- Produced a children's storybook called *A Walk with Charlie Chew* for use in the Dental Health Education Program.
- Carried out a special screening project to reduce waiting times in the Hearing Aid Plan.
- Jointly produced a brochure with Saskatchewan Consumer and Commercial Affairs to assist people in making informed decisions when selecting a hearing aid or seeking related services.
- Began offering Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine to children at 18 months of age to guard against Haemophilus influenzae type b disease.

## Organization

The province is divided into 10 health regions which cover all areas, excluding Regina, Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan. The central office in Regina is responsible for the overall operation, administration and coordination of community-based services and activities.

## Major Activities

### Medical Health Officers

Medical health officers monitor epidemiological information and advise doctors and nurses regarding child health, communicable diseases and immunization programs. They also monitor compliance with public health legislation and coordinate the activities of the health regions.

### Public Health Nursing

Public health nurses emphasize prenatal and child health services through immunization, screening, teaching and counselling in home and classroom settings. Other services include postnatal home visits, child health conferences and school health services.

### Public Health Inspection

Public health inspectors protect the public from physical, chemical and biological hazards. They offer education programs, enforce regulations under the Public Health Act, control shoreland pollution and ensure general sanitation.

### Nutrition

Public health nutritionists provide educational and consultant services to health professionals, community groups and the general public.

## Early Childhood Psychology

Early childhood psychologists deal with preschoolers' developmental and learning disabilities. They intervene at the earliest possible age through therapy, counselling and referrals to other agencies.

## Speech and Language Pathology

Speech and language pathologists identify and treat communication disorders at the earliest possible age through diagnostic, consultative, therapeutic and educational services.

## Chiropody

Chiropodists treat foot problems through medical, mechanical and minor surgical means. The service is primarily directed towards the elderly; however, everyone has access.

## Community Therapy

Community therapists treat people with physical and functional disabilities, and consult with and educate the public and other health professionals. These physiotherapists and occupational therapists provide services to rural hospitals, rural special-care homes, community health agencies, community groups and people in their own homes.

## Dental Health Education

Dental health educators teach proper brushing and flossing techniques to students from kindergarten to grade six. Using fluoride is the most cost-effective preventive measure available. This year 13,700 students from 125 schools rinsed daily with a sodium fluoride solution.

## Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan

Clinics in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Yorkton, Prince Albert, and North Battleford and other communities provide hearing testing and related technical services. The plan provides repair services and loaner aids at no charge, hearing aids at low cost, and FM hearing aids to hearing-impaired preschool children.

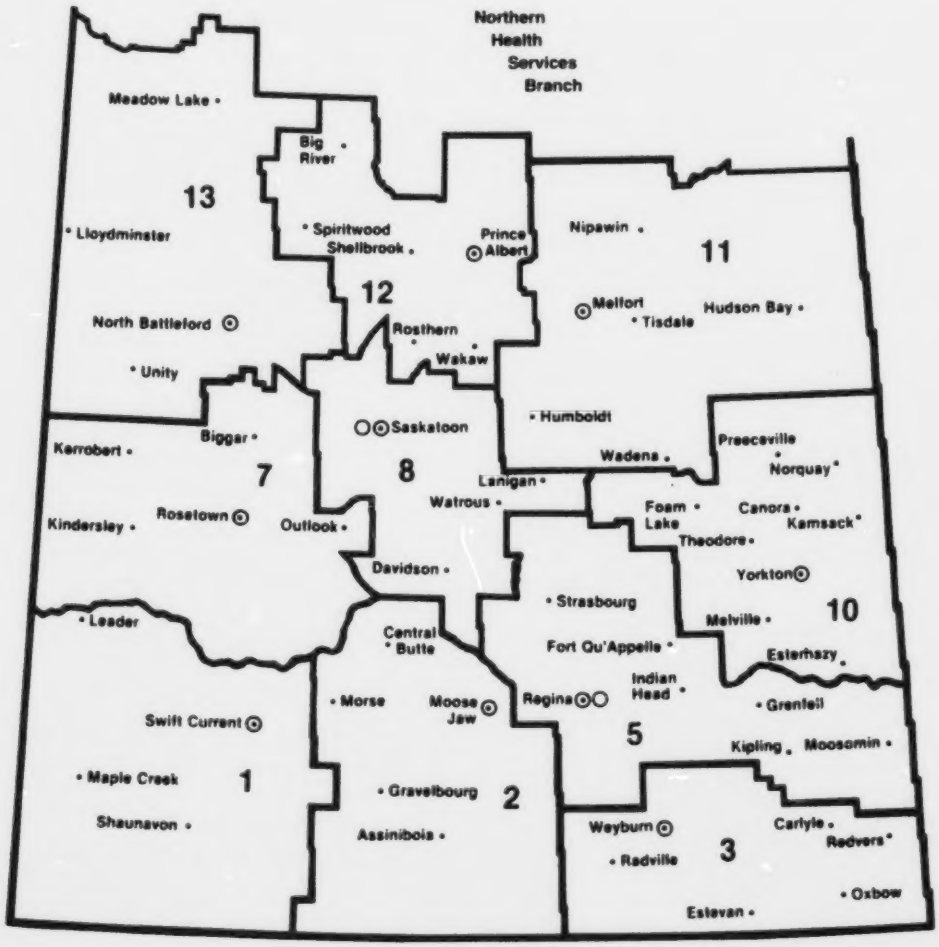
## Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living

This program aims to maintain or improve the independence of people with handicaps by providing them with aids and services. Referral by certain health professionals entitles people to be registered for benefits such as mobility and environmental aids and other special equipment.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Community Health Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-1501

## Figure 2
## Health Regions




**Key for Health Regions:**

No. 1 Swift Current (47,535)
No. 2 Moose Jaw-Assiniboia-Gravelbourg (68,094)
No. 3 Weyburn-Estevan (51,323)
No. 5 Regina Rural (76,696)
No. 7 Rosetown-Biggar-Kindersley (40,616)
No. 8 Saskatoon Rural (49,126)
No. 10 Yorkton-Melville (80,442)
No. 11 Melfort-Tisdale (72,347)
No. 12 Prince Albert (81,550)
No. 13 North Battleford (93,745)
Regina city (179,400)
Saskatoon city (183,487)

Note: Population served is given in parentheses — SHSP Covered Population at June 30, 1988 including Registered Indians and excluding Northern Saskatchewan.

The population shown for North Battleford Health Region 13 includes the Alberta side of Lloydminster city (10,201).

⊙ Regional Office
* District Office
○ City Health Office

# Northern Health Services

## Objectives

The Northern Health Services Branch provides primary care, public health and mental health nursing, the Children's Dental Plan, home care, public health inspection and health education to residents of northern Saskatchewan.

## Highlights

- Increased the number of patients transported to southern treatment facilities by nearly 15 per cent without increasing costs. This was achieved by employing a medical transportation officer to coordinate the program.
- Introduced a nurse/epidemiologist service to provide follow-up for control of communicable diseases, especially tuberculosis.
- Hired a community program consultant to provide regional services to the home care boards in the north-west.
- Provided preventive dental services in homes, schools and clinics through the appointment of a dental health educator.
- Increased physician services in Buffalo Narrows and La Loche so that more patients are seen in their home communities.

## Organization

Northern Health Services is organized on a program basis, each program reporting to either the executive director or the assistant executive director.

## Major Activities

### Children's Dental Plan

The plan provides treatment to children up to 17 years and to adults on an emergency basis.

### Nursing

Nursing clinics are in 10 communities, serving about 30,000 people per year and providing public health or primary care nursing. Primary care nurses are usually the only source of health care in a community, while public health nurses usually are in communities where other medical assistance is available.

### Home Care

Home care is designed to allow northerners to remain in their own homes as long as possible rather than seeking institutional care. In the north the alternative for long-term care is to send a patient to a southern facility. Serving 400 clients, the Home Care Program received nearly a 100 per cent increase in referrals from other agencies.

### Public Health Inspection

Public health inspectors protect the public from physical, chemical and biological hazards. They concentrate on inspecting food establishments, day care centres and hospitals.

### Health Education

Two health educators work closely with schools, clinics and community health workers to train people in preventive and

personal health care. The health educators conducted several training workshops and participated with community groups, local media and individuals in several promotions, including EVERYONE WINS.

### Mental Health

Community mental health nurses maintain frequent contact with other organizations to improve and expand community-based programs for people with mental health problems.

Clients receive assessment, crisis intervention, stress management, medication follow-up, assertiveness training and general support. Visiting psychiatric teams provide specialist counselling such as child and youth counselling, marital and psychological assessments, psychotherapy and hypnotherapy.

### Community Health Workers

Community health workers work with the clinics to provide educational and interpretive services to people speaking Cree and Dene.

### Medical Transportation

A medical transportation coordinator arranges transportation for people receiving social assistance. About 3,000 people a year use this service.

For more information, contact:

Northern Health Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
Box 500
La Ronge, Saskatchewan
S0J 1L0
Phone: (306) 425-4510

# Laboratory and Disease Control Services

## Objectives

The Laboratory and Disease Control Services Branch performs tests on specimens received from hospitals and physicians, and on specimens collected for environmental monitoring.

The branch collects and analyzes statistics on the incidence of communicable disease in the province, and distributes vaccines to hospitals, doctors' offices, health regions and other medical centres. The branch also manages the Tuberculosis Control Program, including identification, treatment, monitoring, education and prevention.

## Highlights

- Established a pharmacoepidemiology unit to conduct studies of unexpected prescription drug effects on the population.
- Identified three babies with phenylketonuria (PKU) and identified four babies with hypothyroidism. Early diagnosis enables treatment and prevents retardation.
- Performed 831,200 tests for physicians requesting clinical diagnostic services in bacteriology, chemistry, mycology, radiochemistry, serology, toxicology, urine hormones and virology.

## Organization

The branch is the most specialized laboratory in the province and is divided into the following units: Microbiology; Communicable Disease Control; Toxicology; Environmental Sciences; Pharmacoepidemiology; and Support Services and Regulatory Affairs.

## Major Activities

### Communicable Disease Control

The Communicable Disease Control unit offers consultation and support services to health professionals and individuals, and distributes vaccines and immune globulin for disease prevention and treatment. The division serves as the main agency for the collection and analysis of communicable disease statistics.

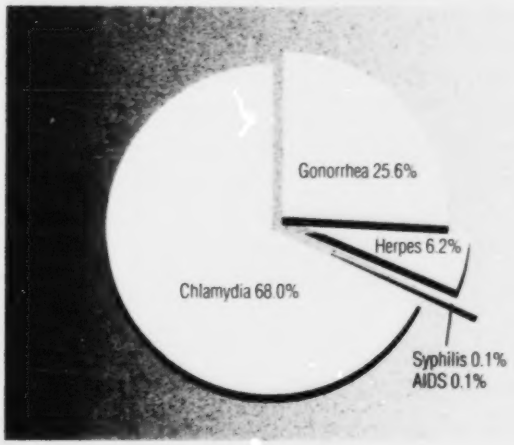
Five cases of AIDS were reported in 1988 compared with seven cases in 1987. The number of Saskatchewan cases remains lower than the national average with a cumulative number of 24 cases reported. There have been 16 deaths.

The Tuberculosis Control Program provides mobile clinics in northern communities. These clinics ensure cases are diagnosed early and provide drugs to control the disease.

**Figure 3**

**Sexually Transmitted Diseases**

Proportions of Cases by Disease Reported




## Protective Tests

The branch conducts tests on selected specimens to detect unsuspected threats to health. These tests allow corrective or defensive measures to be adopted before serious harm is done. In this year, the branch:

- tested water supplies from municipal systems, private wells and swimming pools;
- analyzed samples of air washing from foam insulated homes for formaldehyde;
- tested fish from Saskatchewan lakes and rivers for mercury;
- carried out 9,230 tests on retail dairy products; and
- screened newborn babies for phenylketonuria (PKU) and hypothyroidism.

## Clinical Diagnostic Services

Modern medicine relies on laboratory tests to aid in the early diagnosis of illness and to permit swift treatment when required. In this year, the branch:

- performed diagnostic tests for physicians;
- assisted in 520 medicolegal investigations (a 24-hour poison identification service is available to physicians to aid in diagnosing patients who ingest a poison or drug); and
- offered technical advice to diagnostic laboratories on test procedures and provided proficiency check samples to 132 hospital laboratories and 10 physicians' labs.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Laboratory and Disease Control Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3211 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 5W6
Phone: (306) 787-3131

# Health Promotion

## Objectives

The Health Promotion Branch educates the public on health and lifestyle issues. It also provides educational and resource centre support to government departments, other providers of health services and department staff.

## Highlights

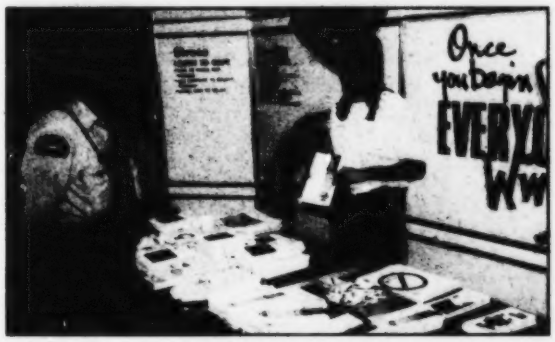
- Launched the EVERYONE WINS health promotion program which focuses on seven key health areas: nutrition, physical fitness, stress, accident prevention, alcohol and drug abuse, smoking and communicable diseases.
- Awarded 119 community grants under the EVERYONE WINS Community Development Program.
- Established the EVERYONE WINS business component to encourage health promotion programs within the workplace.

## Organization

The branch encompasses two units: Health Education and Promotion (which includes the EVERYONE WINS program) and the Resource Centre.

## Major Activities

- Conducted business seminars to help employers implement health promotion programs at the worksite.
- Developed pamphlets, posters, community and business kits, and distributed educational resource materials to the public.




*The branch set up 33 EVERYONE WINS displays this year at conferences, shopping malls and other public places as part of its promotion activities.*

- Delivered a series of Healthy Lifestyles presentations to employees of Saskatchewan Health and other government departments.
- Lent audio-visual equipment to branches, and previewed videos and films for the department to buy and lend to the public.
- Lent 6,672 books and journals, provided an on-line searching service and reference work, and coordinated the department's book and journal orders.

For more information, contact:

Health Promotion Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: Regina: (306) 787-3084
Toll-free: 1-800-667-7766

# Mental Health Services

## Objectives

The Mental Health Services Branch ensures that all residents have access to comprehensive mental health services. The branch provides or oversees a full range of community-based services and hospital programs in each of the eight mental health regions. Private practitioners and voluntary non-profit organizations provide complementary services.

## Highlights

- Provided regular services in 61 communities, giving Saskatchewan one of the most extensive and comprehensive community-based mental health services in Canada.
- Saw Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford continue to provide inpatient services to an average of 188 long-term care clients. Saskatchewan continues to lead the nation in reducing the number of patients in its mental hospitals by providing alternate community services.
- Established a family council at Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford. A family council is a support group for families of patients.
- Introduced a new family-based admission process at Regina Child and Youth Services to increase efficiency, meet increasing demand for service and ensure that highest risk cases receive service immediately.
- Introduced new multi-agency treatment programs in Yorkton and Prince Albert.
- Introduced a specialist treatment program for adult sexual offenders in North Battleford.
- Introduced a variety of sexual abuse treatment groups for adults and child victims in the Saskatoon region.
- Conducted workshops on topics such as stress, depression, bereavement, self-esteem, farm stress, eating disorders and anger control.

## Organization

There are eight mental health regions with headquarters situated in the major cities of Saskatchewan. Each region has psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, psychiatric nurses and therapists. Some services are provided in partnership with psychiatrists and other physicians in private practice or employed by hospitals. The branch also runs the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford, which is the only provincial mental health facility to provide long-term care. Freestanding specialist facilities exist at Regina Child and Youth Services and at MacNeill Clinic in Saskatoon.

## Major Activities

### Clinical Services

The branch provides direct and indirect clinical and consulting services for people of all ages through diagnostic and treatment services, counselling and support for community clients; in-patient (hospital) services; services to children, youth and the elderly; treatment of offenders; court assessments; and consultation and support to other agencies. The branch encourages and assists people in participating in their own care.

## Child and Youth Services

The branch uses a wide range of individual counselling and family and group work methods to treat children and teenagers experiencing emotional problems.

## Rehabilitation and Support Services

In co-operation with government departments and non-government agencies, the branch provides support for members' clubs and community service centres for recovering patients; family support groups; transitional employment programs; social skills training; case management services; and consultation, planning and information on all aspects of psychiatric rehabilitation.

The branch introduced family support programs in the Regina and Yorkton regions for the long-term mentally ill, directly involved families in planning mental health services in Prince Albert, and introduced a comprehensive rehabilitation program for the chronically ill in Swift Current and a similar program centred in a day hospital in Moose Jaw.

## Residential Services

The branch funds 200 approved boarding homes, 12 group homes, 85 supervised apartment spaces and follow-up programs to people living on their own or with a family.

## Hospital Care

Saskatchewan residents are hospitalized for mental disorders as frequently as residents of other provinces, but are more likely to be cared for in community hospitals and to remain in care for shorter periods of time. (In 1988 the average stay in mental health centres was 22.4 days.) Short stays are made possible by the extensive community support network.

## Prevention

The branch is involved in and supports public education and community development, as well as an extensive research program at the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan.

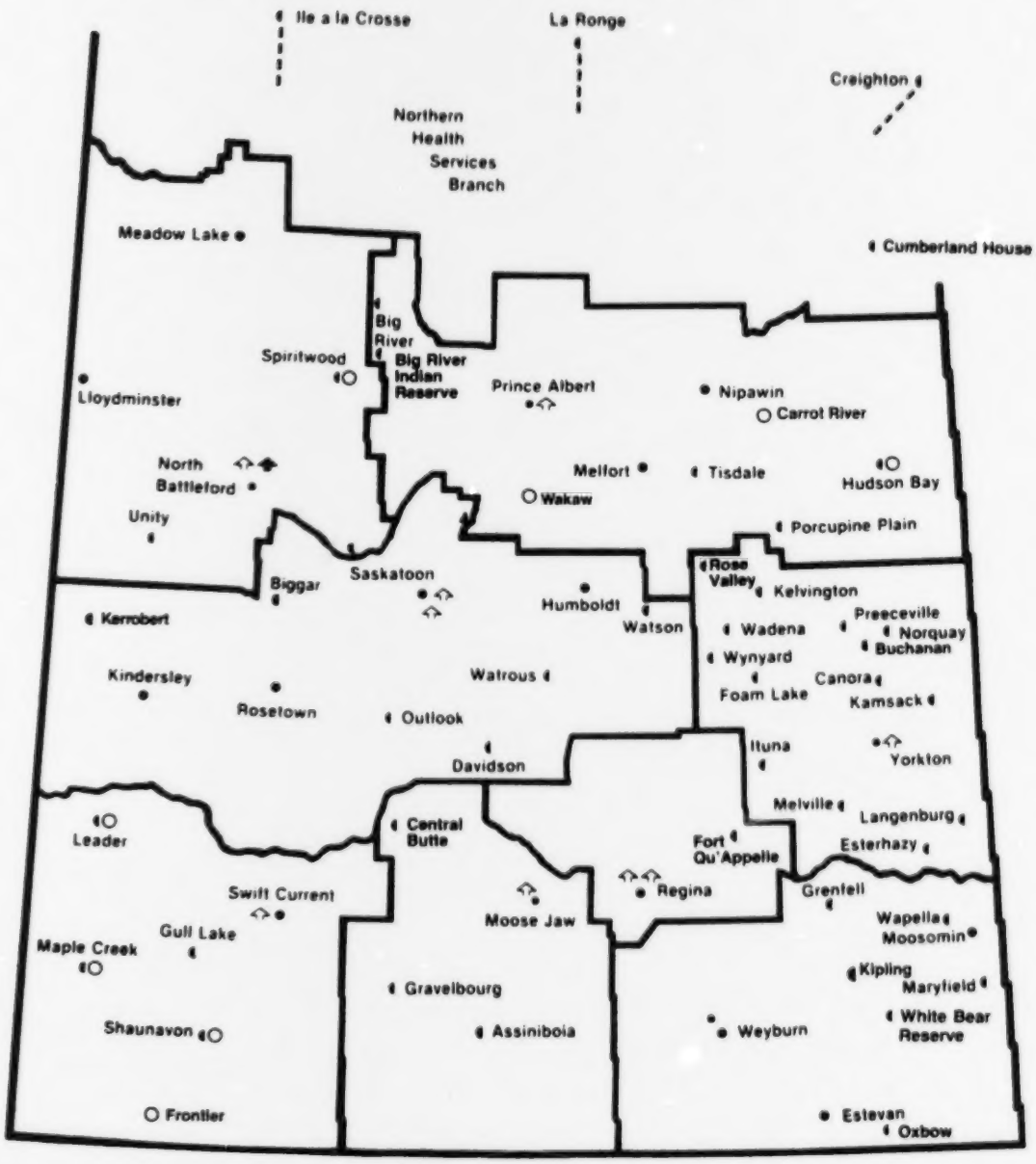
## Special Needs

The branch works with government and non-government agencies to serve people with a variety of special needs such as youths charged under the federal Young Offenders Act, perpetrators and victims of domestic violence, and sexual offenders.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Mental Health Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3286

## Figure 4
## Mental Health Services




**Key**

- Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford
- Psychiatric Ward in General Hospital
- Mental Health Centre
- Mental Health Clinic
- Part-time Mental Health Clinic
- Community Liaison Workers

# Hospital Services

## Objectives

The Hospital Services Branch manages the province's Hospital Care Insurance Plan and the Ambulance Program. It also provides funds to the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation, community clinics, the College of Medicine, the Canadian Red Cross Society and other groups.

## Highlights

- Waiting lists for elective surgery at the three Saskatoon hospitals declined for the second straight year.
- An expanded day surgery program was approved for St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon.
- $300,000 was provided to help the Regina hospitals recruit specialists. A shortage of ophthalmologists in the city ended with the recruitment of five additional specialists.
- Construction Package III was officially opened at the Regina General Hospital, providing four floors of patient accommodation and new and expanded space for emergency, surgery and medical imaging (x-ray, nuclear medicine, ultrasound and CT scanning).
- A new rehabilitation wing opened at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre in Regina and Phase II construction began. Phase II will provide a new long-term care wing with 54 Veterans' Affairs Canada beds and 170 long-term care beds.
- Construction of a major 97-bed expansion unit continued at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, and the superstructure for a new Saskatoon City Hospital was tendered.
- Three new integrated facilities opened at Theodore, Kyle and Leoville, and planning continued for eight more.

## Organization

The branch is divided into three groups: Hospital Programs/Planning; Finance, Systems, Benefits and Ambulance Services; and a separate Operational Review Unit. At March 31, 1989, the Planning and Construction Unit reported to the executive directors of the Hospital Services Branch and the Continuing Care Branch.

## Major Activities

The branch spent $605.8 million for programs it administers, including $516 million in operating funds for the province's 134 hospitals. (See Table 1.)

## Hospital Care

People receive hospital services at no direct charge for a wide range of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures on an in-patient and out-patient basis.

This year, special initiatives kept summer bed closures down and the number of surgical procedures up in Regina and Saskatoon.

## Ambulance Services

Ambulance Services provides consultative assistance to local ambulance boards and operators. It monitors ambulance standards, licenses ambulance services and attendants, and provides operating grants for the province's 108 ambulance boards. It also administers the Air Ambulance and Senior Citizens Ambulance Assistance Programs.

*This diagnostic camera at Regina's Pasqua Hospital Outpatient Ophthalmology Clinic mainly is used to detect blood vessel leakage before and after laser treatment.*

### Planning and Construction Unit

In October 1988, the Facility Planning and Construction section merged with its equivalent unit in Continuing Care to form a new Program Development and Contruction unit responsible to the executive directors of both branches. The new unit will assist communities, hospitals and special-care homes in developing capital projects and in planning for community health care needs.

### The Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation

The Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation is responsible for the province's cancer control program and operates the Allan Blair Memorial Clinic in Regina and the Saskatoon Cancer Clinic.

### Community Clinics

Community clinics offer a wide range of health services provided by physicians and other professionals. Community health associations provide clinic facilities and equipment, and the branch provides the operating budgets. Community clinics operate in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and Wynyard.

### Physical Therapy Services

Nine privately-owned physical therapy clinics provide services under contract with the department. These clinics are located in Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Rosetown and Manitou Beach. One osteopathic physician is located in Regina.

### The Clinical Services Fund

The Clinical Services Fund finances 208 medical interns' and residents' salaries. It also funds all or part of the salaries of 52 College of Medicine faculty members and some other service-related activities associated with medical education.

### Red Cross Society

The branch funds 100 per cent of the Canadian Red Cross Society's blood transfusion service costs, 100 per cent of plasma fraction products costs, and 80 per cent of blood donor recruitment costs. The Red Cross operates blood transfusion service centres in Regina and Saskatoon.

## The Hospital Revenue Act

The branch administers The Hospital Revenue Act, which requires municipalities to pay an annual two mill Hospital Revenue Tax if they do not support a hospital by direct payments or by participating in a Union Hospital District. The government disburses these funds to the hospitals those municipalities' residents use most.

## Integrated Facilities

Integrated facilities bring together a hospital and a licensed special-care home in one building. They are designed to meet the needs of smaller communities that have limited long-term care and acute care needs. The branch is responsible for the acute care component of the program, and the Continuing Care Branch has program responsibility for special-care residents.

At March 31, 1989, 13 integrated facilities with a total of 164 long-term and 123 acute care beds were operating in the province.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Hospital Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3200

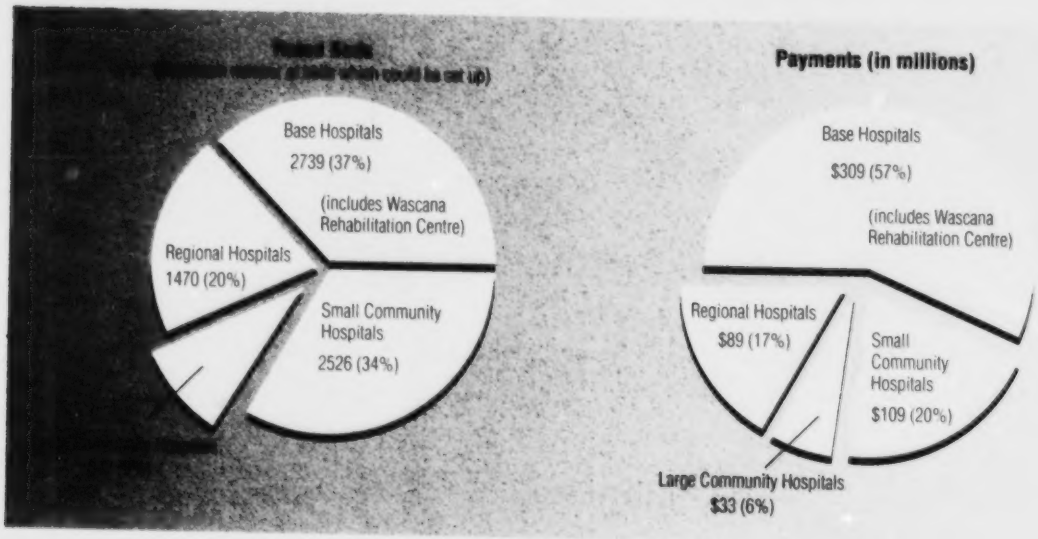
**Table 1**

## Hospital Services Payment 1988-89

| | |
|---|---|
| - Payments to Saskatchewan Hospitals | $ 540,587,843 |
| Less recoveries from Continuing Care | (24,560,784) |
| | 516,027,059 |
| - Payments to Community Clinics | 9,456,468 |
| Less recoveries from Medical Care Insurance | (4,440,696) |
| | 5,015,772 |
| - Private Physiotherapy/Osteopathy | 2,221,082 |
| - Payments to the Canadian Red Cross | 6,608,453 |
| - Miscellaneous Grants | 2,223,929 |
| - Reciprocal Billing: In-province Hospitals | (92,738) |
| - Payments to Out-of-province Hospitals | 24,938,265 |
| - Recoveries from Third Party Liabilities | (2,073,947) |
| **Total** | $ 554,867,875 |
| Grant to the Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation | 18,545,600 |
| Grants to support the Medical Education System (Clinical Services Fund) | 12,195,283 |
| Grant to Hospitals under the Hospital Revenue Act | 665,190 |
| Grants and Allowances for Ambulance Services | 9,143,384 |
| Hospital and Ambulance Administration | 3,658,235 |
| Grants to Hospitals - Repayment on principal and interest on capital loans from the Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation | 6,713,750 |
| **Total** | $ 605,789,317 |

## Figure 5

**Percentage of Rated Beds and Payments by Hospital Group, 1988-89**



# Continuing Care

## Objectives

The Continuing Care Branch funds the Home Care and Special-care Homes Programs. The branch sets and monitors policy and standards, and provides leadership in managing the long-term care system, while local boards provide the services.

## Highlights

- Established a Home Care policy that gives priority to serving people with the greatest need.
- Funded new care positions to allow existing special-care homes to provide heavier care.
- Opened 121 special-care home beds: 108 new and 13 replacement.
- Opened three new adult day programs.

## Organization

The branch comprises two program sections: Special-care Homes and Home Care. The sections are supported by administration, information systems and policy units.

## Major Activities

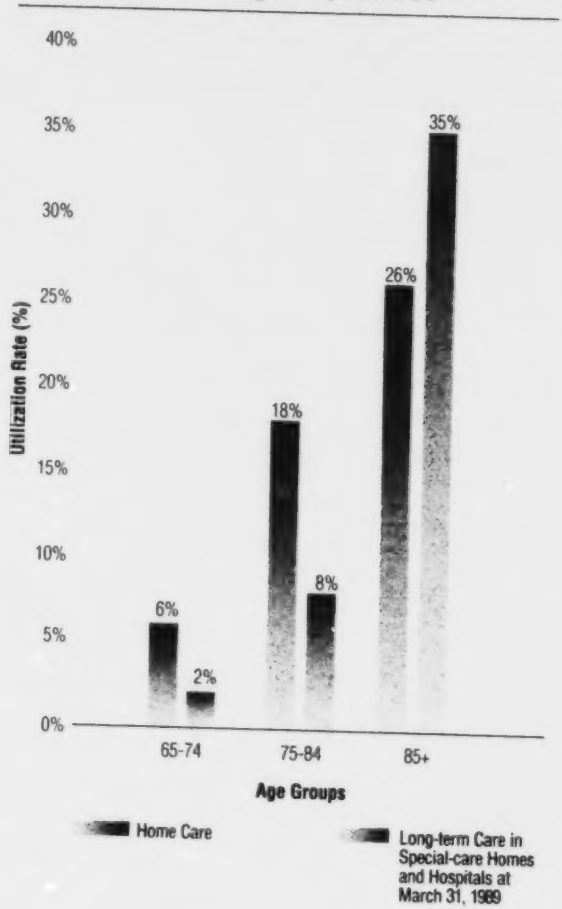
### Home Care

Home Care helps people remain independent at home by providing acute, palliative and supportive care. The program does not replace services that the family and community usually provide.

The program is available in 45 districts in southern Saskatchewan; the Northern Health Services Branch provides services in the north. Each district is served by a non-profit home care corporation with an elected board.

**Figure 6**

**Percentage of Seniors Who Use Continuing Care Programs, 1988-89**



*This young man is a home care client with cerebral palsy who, with the services of home care workers, is able to work and live on his own. In 1988-89 home care workers provided care to 18,842 clients.*

Home Care provides assessment and care coordination, nursing, homemaking (home management and personal care), minor home maintenance and volunteer services. Applicants must have a Saskatchewan Health Services Card and an assessment of need before they receive services. There are no client fees for nursing, assessment and care coordination or volunteer services. Clients receive non-nursing services for nominal fees.

## The Special-care Homes Program

The Special-care Homes Program ensures that appropriate long-term institutional programs are available to people who need more care and supervision than is available in their own homes.

Services are delivered by 161 special-care homes with 9,581 beds and 93 hospitals with 561 beds. Many facilities offer community outreach services: 14 have adult day programs and 92 offer respite services.

Anyone who requires institutional care is eligible. Each facility has the final authority to determine who is admitted, although many rely on District Coordinating Committee (DCC) recommendations. DCCs are established by local programs and facilities to coordinate long-term care.

This year, 45 renovation and three new construction projects were approved to provide 116 beds for $13.02 million.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Continuing Care Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3628

# Medical Care Insurance

## Objectives

The Medical Care Insurance Branch manages the Medical Care Insurance Plan, the Children's Dental Program, and the Supplementary Health Benefits Program. There are no premiums or user fees for services and benefits that the branch administers.

## Highlights

- Entered into a reciprocal billing arrangement so that Saskatchewan beneficiaries normally will not be billed for insured physician services provided in other provinces, except Quebec.
- Processed more than 9.5 million claims for insured services.

## Organization

The branch is organized along major program lines: Medical Care Insurance, Children's Dental Program and Supplementary Health Benefits.

## Major Activities

The branch spent $249.1 million on programs and administration.

**Table 2**

### Medical Care Insurance Branch Expenditures, 1988-89

| | |
|---|---|
| Physicians | $ 207,291,859 |
| Chiropractors | 11,464,448 |
| Children's Dental Program | 9,317,882 |
| Optometrists | 7,345,103 |
| Supplementary Health Benefits Program | 6,543,675 |
| Administration | 5,632,775 |
| Dentists | 1,172,670 |
| Continuing Medical Education | 350,000 |
| TOTAL | $ 249,118,412 |

## Medical Care Insurance Plan

The cost of medical care is covered for residents for services provided by physicians, chiropractors and optometrists. Payment is made on a fee-for-service basis in accordance with Medical Care Insurance Branch payment schedules, which reflect agreements reached with the various professional associations.

## Children's Dental Program

The Children's Dental Program provides preventive services, treatment and dental education services to children ages five to 13 through more than 300 private practice dentists.

A total of 125,630 children were enrolled in the program. Of these, 91.4 per cent visited a dentist one or more times during the year.

## Supplementary Health Benefits

Supplementary health benefits cover non-insured health services for people nominated by Saskatchewan Social Services such as social assistance recipients, government wards, inmates of correctional institutions and residents of special-care homes whose income is at or below the Saskatchewan Income Plan level. Coverage includes certain medical and dental services, drugs and appliances, optical services and transportation costs.

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Medical Care Insurance Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3475

# Prescription Drug Services

## Objectives

The Prescription Drug Services Branch administers the Saskatchewan Prescription Drug Plan. This plan makes prescribed drugs more accessible and affordable to residents while ensuring quality, availability and therapeutic cost efficiency.

## Highlights

- Completed a project to allow more than 240 pharmacies to transmit claims through on-line computer terminals, thereby providing better consumer service.
- Provided point-of-sale information that updates consumers on the status of their current deductible as well as information about the dollar value of prescription drug benefits.
- Expanded coverage eligibility to Formulary prescriptions purchased anywhere in Canada.
- Increased the number of drugs eligible for coverage from 1,818 to 1,874, and processed 4.729 million prescriptions.

## Organization

The branch is organized into three divisions: Claims, Administration and Professional Services.

## Major Activities

- Paid 80 per cent of all eligible prescription costs once consumers exceed deductible levels.
- Paid all costs, except for a maximum of $2 per prescription, for people receiving supplementary health benefits.
- Paid all costs, except for $3.95 per prescription, for drugs that residents of special-care homes require.
- Paid all costs for drugs of terminally ill patients registered under the Palliative Care Program, and all costs for those registered under special programs of Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL).
- Compiled and maintained a Formulary, or benefit drug list, to ensure coverage is provided for only high quality and effective drugs.
- Worked with health professionals to encourage the rational use of drugs, and assisted health professionals and the public in receiving education about prescription drug use.
- Negotiated agreements with drug manufacturers, wholesalers and pharmacies to reduce costs and provide high levels of service and accessibility to prescription drugs.

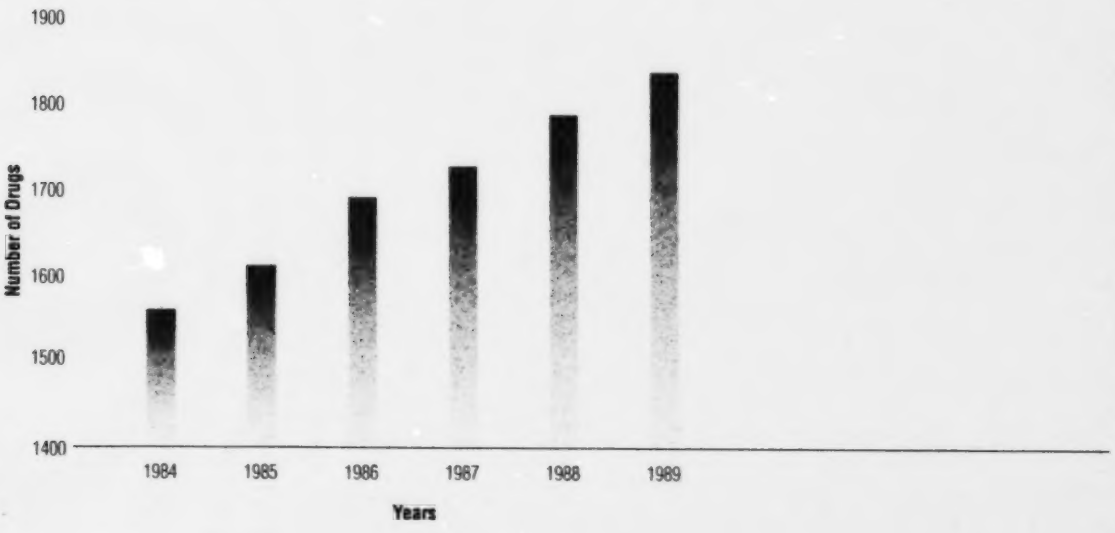
For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Prescription Drug Services Branch
Saskatchewan Health
11th Floor, Avord Tower
2002 Victoria Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 0R7
Phone: (306) 787-3317
1-800-667-7581 (Toll-free consumer inquiry line)

*The computerized health services card — the first of its kind in Canada — eliminates consumers' need to save receipts and apply for rebates under the Prescription Drug Plan.*

**Figure 7**

**Saskatchewan Formulary**
**Number of Drugs Covered**



# Vital Statistics

## Objectives

The Vital Statistics Branch registers births, marriages, deaths, divorces, adoptions, and name changes. The branch issues more than 80,000 certificates a year and publishes extensive statistical information for other agencies and the public.

## Highlights

- Revised application forms to permit speedier responses to the public.
- Completed a pilot project that tested imaging technology (storing documents digitally) as a way to reduce costs.

## Organization

The branch is divided into four units: Registration, Search, Investigation and Administration.

## Major Activities

The branch works closely with local vital statistics registrars throughout Saskatchewan, most of them municipal secretaries and town/city clerks, who regularly report births and deaths. Clergy and marriage commissioners report weddings, while the courts report divorces and adoptions. This information is shared with Statistics Canada in Ottawa for compiling national vital statistics.

### Vital Statistics

1987 and 1988 (Calendar Year)

| | 1987 | 1988 |
|---|---|---|
| Population (1,000s) | 1,014 | 1,011 |
| Live Births | 17,034 | 16,700* |
| Rate per 1,000 Population | 16.8 | 16.5 |
| Deaths | 7,808 | 8,084* |
| Rate per 1,000 Population | 7.7 | 8.0 |
| Stillbirths (28+ Weeks Gestation) | 67 | 53* |
| Rate per 1,000 Live Births | 3.9 | 3.2 |
| Marriages | 6,853 | 6,767* |
| Rate per 1,000 Population | 6.8 | 6.7 |
| Divorces and Annulments | 2,909 | 2,442 |
| Adoptions in Saskatchewan | 615 | 568 |
| Changes of Name | 939 | 766 |
| Certificates Issued | 90,174 | 83,795 |

*Preliminary figures

For more information and/or a statistical supplement, contact:

Vital Statistics Branch
Saskatchewan Health
1919 Rose Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3P1
Phone: (306) 787-3092

# Information Systems

## Objectives

The Information Systems Branch plans and coordinates centralized automated information systems within the department and registers residents for health services.

## Highlights

- Played a major role in developing the computerized health services card and its application to the Prescription Drug Plan.
- Initiated a major information technology strategic planning project.

## Organization

The branch comprises the Information Systems, Health Insurance Registration and Central Office Systems sections.

## Major Activities

- Registered 14,077 new families as beneficiaries of Saskatchewan Health programs.
- Issued about 780,000 computerized health services cards in December 1988.

## Primary Registration Activities

| | 1987/88 | 1988/89 |
|---|---|---|
| New Family Registrations | 13,484 | 14,077 |
| Family Address Changes | 104,195 | 97,309 |
| Deaths | 8,253 | 8,373 |
| All Beneficiary Changes | 356,028 | 391,361 |
| Social Services Nominations and/or Cancellations | 51,321 | 47,412 |
| Family Health Services Cards Mailed | 525,830 | 522,029 |
| Covered Population | 1,045,440* | 1,044,151* |

*as of June 30

For more information on the Health Services Card, contact:

Health Insurance Registration
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3251
(Toll-free) 1-800-667-7551

# Finance and Administration

## Objectives

The Finance and Administration Branch provides support services to department programs that help them meet the department's goals and objectives.

## Highlights

- Established a departmental "Financial Council," composed of Health financial officials, to address financial management issues.
- Planned and coordinated renovations and relocations associated with the Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery relocation to 3475 Albert Street.

## Organization

The branch is divided into three units: Financial Services, Accounting and Property Management.

## Major Activities

The branch provides timely financial and administrative support services appropriate to the needs of department programs. These services are:

- financial and administrative policy development and advice;
- budgeting and forecasting;
- accounts payable and receivable;
- payroll;
- procurement and stockroom services;
- accommodation management;
- central mail and records management; and
- recoveries from the federal government under federal-provincial cost sharing agreements.

For more information, contact:

Finance and Administration Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3052

# Policy and Health Economics

## Objectives

The Policy and Health Economics Branch helps develop broad health policies, conducts economic analyses and evaluations of health-care programs, develops policies regarding health human resources and coordinates departmental legislation.

## Highlights

- Released the "Study Into the Growth in Use of Health Services."
- Conducted the annual health employers' survey.
- Helped organize the Annual Health Ministers' Conference in Saskatoon.
- Co-sponsored the Invitational Conference on Ethical Issues in Health Care in Regina in January 1989 with the Saskatchewan Health-Care Association.

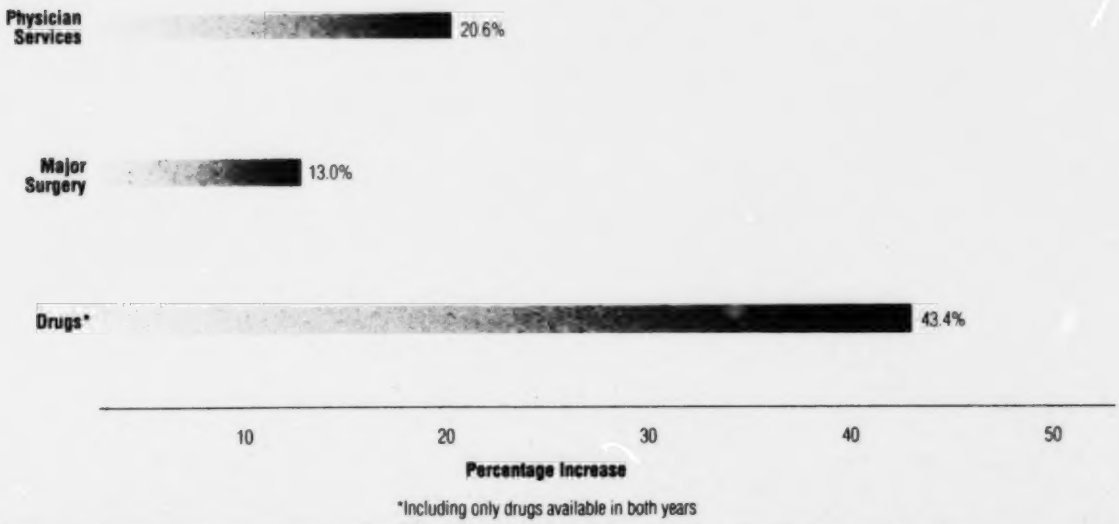
## Organization

The branch reports to the Deputy Minister and is divided into two sections: Legislation and Health Human Resources, and Economics and Evaluation.

**Figure 8**

**Increase in Use of Services Per Person**

1977-78 to 1985-86




*Including only drugs available in both years

## Major Activities

### Utilization Study

This co-operative study compared the use of physician services, hospitals and prescription drugs in 1977-78 with 1985-86, taking into account the aging of the population and price increases.

### Manpower Planning

- Surveyed more than 1,300 employers with 14,000 health professionals in more than 30 disciplines for the annual Health Employers' Survey.
- Developed a comprehensive health human resources database in cooperation with more than 20 professional associations to provide a historical record of the supply of health professionals.
- The Registered Nurses Act was rewritten to provide for mandatory registration of nurses and the Certified Nursing Assistants Act was enacted to recognize the self-regulation of certified nursing assistants.

For more information, contact:

Policy and Health Economics Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-3143

# Human Resources and Payment Negotiation

## Objectives

The Human Resources and Payment Negotiation Branch provides comprehensive personnel services to the department, including monitoring and observing negotiations and labour relations of external health care organizations and contract negotiations with professional groups.

## Highlights

- Undertook extensive recruitment for difficult-to-recruit personnel such as public health inspectors.
- Funded 23 new and continuing bursaries in difficult-to-recruit professions such as occupational and physical therapy, public health inspection and speech pathology.
- Delivered a department-wide "Serving People First" seminar to 1,800 employees.

## Organization

The branch is organized into three work units: Human Resources, Staff Development and Payment Negotiation.

## Major Activities

### Human Resource Management

Human Resource Management delivers department-wide support services that include:

- interpreting collective agreements; participating in the collective bargaining process; and assisting with grievance resolution, corrective discipline and performance management;
- providing advice on organizational design, including classification and compensation matters;
- assisting in hiring; and
- administering employee benefit plans and records management.

### Staff Development

Staff Development identifies developmental needs, prepares the staff development plan and coordinates staff development.

### Payment Negotiation

Payment Negotiation represents the department with external health care agencies by observing and consulting at bargaining sessions; serving as chief spokesperson in negotiating; facilitating funding decisions for negotiated health care settlements; and liaising between negotiators, funding agencies and bargaining unit representatives.

For more information, contact:

Human Resources and Payment Negotiation Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone: (306) 787-6125

# Public Affairs

## Objectives

The Public Affairs Branch offers communications advice and support in planning, creating and delivering information to the public about the department's programs and services.

## Highlights

- Coordinated media for special events such as:
  - the Invitational Conference on Ethical Issues in Health Care;
  - the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre opening; and
  - the Saskatchewan Organ Donor Program.
- Planned the promotional campaign for the health services card.
- Developed and delivered departmental media relations workshops.
- Planned and implemented departmental writing workshops.
- Planned and produced the monthly staff newsletter "Contact."

## Organization

The branch reports directly to the Deputy Minister.

## Major Activities

The branch provides support services to the department by:

- developing communication plans for major initiatives;
- providing design and production advice on print, audiovisual, television and radio production projects;
- liaising with outside production agencies;
- producing departmental news releases and planning and coordinating news conferences;
- preparing speaking notes for the Deputy Minister and the Minister;

*Premier Grant Devine helps an eager little girl pull the lever that lights up the Tree of Recognition, marking the official opening of the new wing at Regina's Wascana Rehabilitation Centre. The new wing opened in January and phase II construction began.*

- coordinating special events such as sod turnings and hospital/special-care home openings;
- preparing the department's annual report;
- providing a media monitoring service on health issues; and
- fielding calls from the public on the Saskatchewan Health Inquiry Line.

For more information, contact:

Public Affairs Branch
Saskatchewan Health
3475 Albert Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 6X6
Phone (Inquiry Line): (306) 787-3168

## Table 5

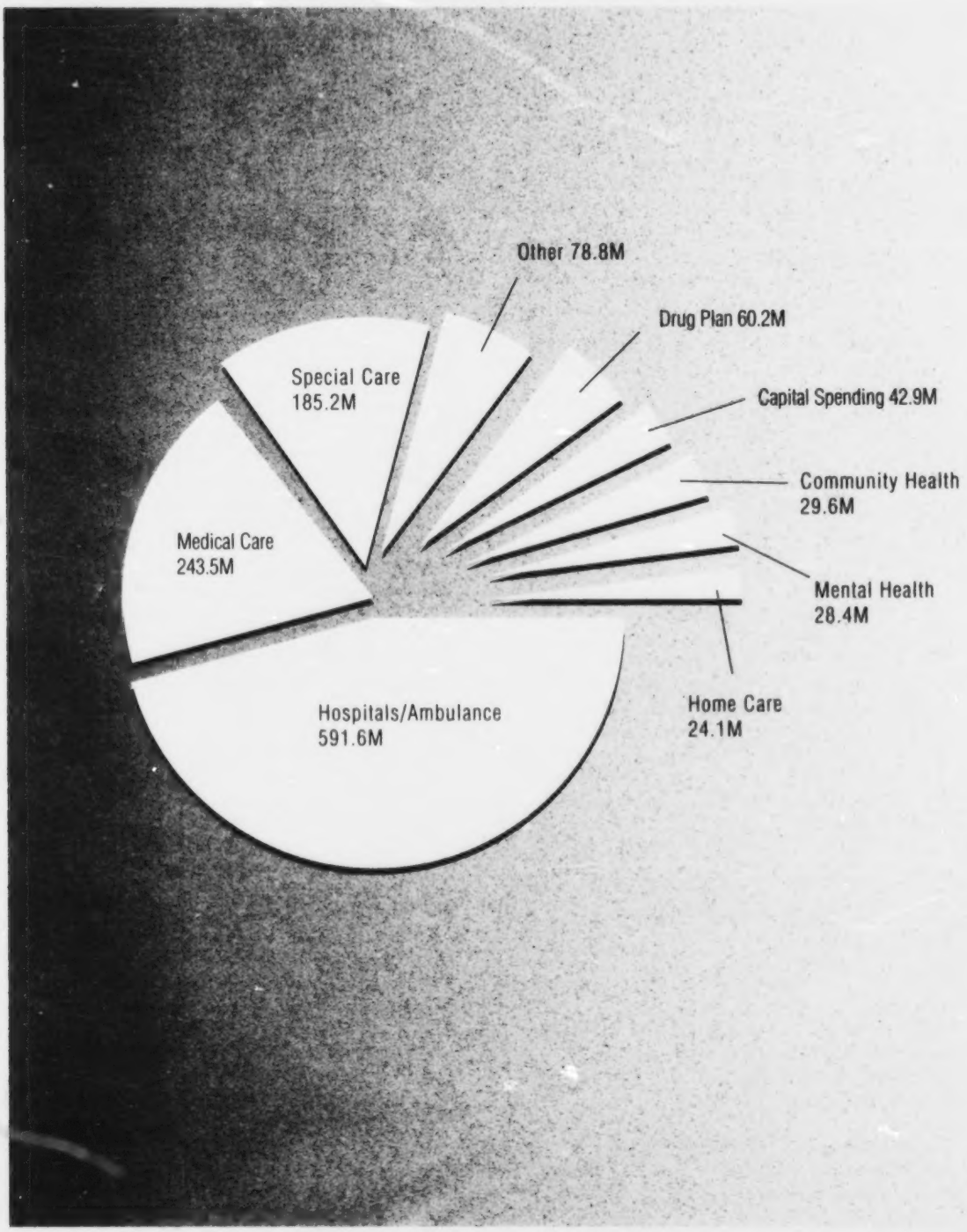
### Saskatchewan Health Expenditures
### 1987-88 to 1988-89

| Program | | Total Expenditure ($ Thousands) 1987-88 | 1988-89 | Percentage Distribution 1988-89 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total | | $1,255,849 | $1,284,357 | 100.0 |
| A. Operating Expenditures | | 1,178,635 | 1,241,495 | 100.0 |
| Hospital Services Plan | (1) | 524,210 | 555,533 | 44.7 |
| Medical Care Insurance | | 215,401 | 227,624 | 18.3 |
| Grants to Special-care Facilities | | 178,203 | 185,231 | 14.9 |
| Grants and Allowances for Home Care | | 23,593 | 24,102 | 1.9 |
| Prescription Drug Plan | | 59,453 | 60,214 | 4.9 |
| Mental Health Services | | 27,953 | 28,396 | 2.3 |
| Dental Plan | | 15,670 | 11,577 | 0.9 |
| Supplementary Health Services | (2) | — | 4,284 | 0.3 |
| Community Health Services | (3) | 17,655 | 14,489 | 1.2 |
| Saskatchewan Cancer Foundation | | 17,891 | 18,546 | 1.5 |
| Grants to Health Agencies | (4) | 17,073 | 18,405 | 1.5 |
| SADAC | | 12,830 | 14,402 | 1.2 |
| Laboratory and Disease Control | | 7,543 | 8,465 | 0.7 |
| Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living | | 6,188 | 8,384 | 0.7 |
| Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan | | 1,853 | 2,125 | 0.2 |
| Northern Health Services | | 4,405 | 4,590 | 0.4 |
| Ambulance Services | (5) | 7,052 | 9,143 | 0.7 |
| Lakeside Home Wolseley | (6) | 2,020 | – | 0.0 |
| Accommodation and Mail | | 16,388 | 17,013 | 1.4 |
| Administrative and Support Services | | 23,254 | 28,972 | 2.3 |
| Total | | $ 1,178,635 | $ 1,241,495 | 100.0 |
| B. Capital | (7) | 77,214 | 42,862 | — |

(1) Includes payments under the Hospital Revenue Act
(2) Supplementary Health Services were included in Community Health Services in 1987-88
(3) Included Supplementary Health Services in 1987-88
(4) Includes grants to city health departments and other health agencies, grants assisting clinical services provided by the medical education system, grant to the Saskatchewan Health Research Fund and grants for Mental Health Services
(5) Includes grants to ambulance district boards and payments for air ambulance services
(6) Lakeside Home Wolseley transferred to a district board in 1988-89
(7) Includes project loans advanced through Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation

**Figure 9**

**Health Spending by Major Category, 1988-89**



# Summary of Legislation

A major new piece of legislation was enacted and one revised during the year.

**The Certified Nursing Assistants Act** was enacted and received Royal Assent in September, 1988. The Act grants the Saskatchewan Association of Certified Nursing Assistants the authority to regulate the province's certified nursing assistants by registering and disciplining members, investigating complaints, setting standards of practice, and restricting the use of the title "CNA" to qualified registered practitioners. Previously, CNAs were regulated by the Registered Nurses Act.

**The Registered Nurses Act, 1988** was rewritten to provide for mandatory registration of nurses and to recognize the self-regulation of certified nursing assistants. It also extends title protection to include the term "nurse," defines professional misconduct and incompetence, requires that all complaints against RNs are investigated, clarifies the disciplinary processes and requires employers to report RNs who have been fired for incompetence or misconduct.

**The Ophthalmic Dispensers Act, The Medical Profession Act, The Denturists Act, The Dental Profession Act** and **The Optometry Act** were amended so that appeal tribunals were done away with entirely, and all appeals on disciplinary matters routed directly to the court of Queen's Bench. Minor amendments also were made to **The Hospitalization Act** and **The Hospital Standards Act.**

## Acts Administered by Saskatchewan Health

*The Abandoned Refrigerator Act*
*The Ambulance Act*
*The Anatomy Act*
*The Change of Name Act*
*The Dental Care Act*
*The Department of Health Act*
*The Health Services Act*
*The Hearing Aid Act*
*The Hospital Revenue Act*
*The Hospital Standards Act*
*The Housing and Special-care Homes Act*
*The Medical and Hospitalization Tax Repeal Act*
*The Mental Health Services Act*
*The Mutual Medical and Hospital Benefit Associations Act*
*The Prescription Drugs Act*
*The Public Health Act*
*The Saskatchewan Health Insurance Act*
*The Saskatchewan Hospitalization Act*
*The Union Hospital Act*
*The Venereal Disease Prevention Act*
*The Vital Statistics Act*

## Acts in Which Saskatchewan Health has a Direct Interest

*The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission Act*
*The Cancer Foundation Act*
*The Certified Nursing Assistants Act*
*The Chiropody Profession Act*
*The Chiropractic Act*
*The Community Health Unit Act*
*The Dental Technicians Act*
*The Dental Therapists Act*
*The Denturists Act*
*The Emergency Medical Aid Act*
*The Health Research Act*
*The Home Care Act*
*The Human Tissue Gift Act*
*The Lloydminster Hospital Act, 1948*
*The Medical Care Insurance Supplementary Provisions Act*
*The Medical Profession Act, 1981*
*The Medical Radiation Technologists Act*
*The Medical Scholarships and Bursaries Act*
*The Naturopathy Act*
*The Ophthalmic Dispensers Act*
*The Optometry Act, 1985*
*The Osteopathic Practice Act*
*The Pharmacy Act*
*The Physical Therapists Act, 1984*
*The Professional Dietitians Act*
*The Psychiatric Nurses Act*
*The Registered Nurses Act, 1988*
*The Registered Occupational Therapists Act*
*The Registered Psychologists Act*
*The Saskatchewan Embalmers Act*
*The Saskatchewan Medical Care Insurance Act*
*The South Saskatchewan Hospital Centre Act*
*The Tuberculosis Sanatoria and Hospitals Act*
*The University Hospital Act*
*The Wascana Rehabilitation Centre Act*
*The White Cane Act*